

University of Toronto
POL 320Y Modern Political Thought
Summer 2010

Instructor: Dr. David Carvounas
Office: SS3118
Office Hours: MW 4:30–5:30

This course surveys eighteenth and nineteenth century developments in the history of political thought through a close reading of its most representative texts. We will address the following concepts, among others: human nature, progress, liberty, equality, justice, domination, power, revolution, and modern temporality. While lectures will offer analysis and interpretation, both a conscientious reading of the assigned texts and a readiness to discuss them in class are essential elements of this course. Moreover, students are responsible for all of the materials in the assigned readings whether discussed in class or not.

Required Texts

Rousseau, *The Basic Political Writings*, Hackett
Kant, *Idea for a Universal History; What is Enlightenment?; Contest of Faculties* (Reading Packet)
Condorcet, *Sketch for a Historical Picture of the Progress of the Human Mind* (Reading Packet)
Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, Oxford University Press
Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*, Knox (trans.) Oxford University Press
Marx, *Karl Marx Selected Writings* (Reading Packet)
Mill, *On Liberty*, Penguin Books
Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, Kaufmann (trans.) Vintage Books
Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, Kaufmann (trans.) Vintage Books

Evaluation

First Term Test (June 14)	45%
Second Term Test (July 14)	35%
Term Paper - 7 pages (August 11)	20%

Regarding Missed Term Tests

Make-up tests will be offered only for those students who provide an **extraordinary** reason for missing the test (colds, flu, and other assorted ailments are merely **ordinary**, everyday, occurrences).

Students who miss a test for extraordinary reasons must submit a **written request (no emails!)** for special consideration within **one week** of the missed test explaining the reason for missing the test and providing appropriate documentation, e.g. a medical certificate. When making the request students must include their email address.

IMPORTANT: Make-up tests will be held on August 09 from 6:00–8:00. Students who miss the make-up test (regardless of the reason) will receive a zero for the missed test.

Regarding Term Paper

Term paper topics will be distributed in advance and the paper is due **at the beginning of class** on August 11, 2010.

Students should keep hard copies of their term paper; the instructor and TA assume no responsibility in the event of loss or misplacement of submitted work.

The instructor and TA reserve the right to question students on the content of their written assignments. “Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information, please see the University of Toronto’s policy on Plagiarism at <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>.”

IMPORTANT: Late papers will not be accepted, **no exceptions**.

Regarding Appeals

Appeals must be accompanied by a half-page explanation of the merit for appeal (that you thought you would get a better grade is not a sufficient reason for appeal). Appeals are to be submitted to your teaching assistant for consideration **within 10 days after the tests are returned**. I will consider the appeal only if a resolution cannot be found; however, I will only adjust the grade for egregious errors (5% or more).

Blackboard

Important course related announcements, reading guides for the theorists and specific reading schedules will be posted on Blackboard. Please consult weekly.

Email

Substantive questions on course subject matter will not be addressed via email as all such questions are best considered during my office hours. Email correspondence should only be used for bureaucratic or course related problems.

IMPORTANT: The syllabus answers most questions so please read the syllabus **BEFORE** emailing.

*****The use of digital recorders during lecture sessions **is not allowed*******

Reading and Lecture Schedule

May 10	Organizational meeting, introduction
	Inequality, Alienation, New Beginnings
May 12, 17, 19	Reading: Rousseau’s <i>Discourse on Inequality</i> and <i>Social Contract</i>
	History as Progress
May 26, 31, June 02	Reading: Kant’s <i>Idea for a Universal History</i> and <i>What is Enlightenment?</i> ; Condorcet’s <i>Sketch for a Historical Picture of the Progress of the Human Mind</i>
	An Early Warning against the Modern Journey
June 07, 09	Reading: Burke’s <i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i>
June 14	First Term Test

The Transition to a New Era

June 16, 21, 23

Reading: Hegel's *Philosophy of Right*

The Poetic Potential of the Future

July 05, 07, 12

Reading: Marx's "Speech on the Anniversary of the *Peoples Paper*," pp. 368–369; "Theses on Feuerbach," pp. 171–173; "Preface to *A Critique of Political Economy*," pp. 424–427; "Letter to Mikhailovsky," 617–619; "Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts," pp. 83–95 and 95–104; "German Ideology," pp. 175–198; "Letter to Annenkov," pp. 209–211; "Letter from the *Deutsch-Französische Jahrbücher*," pp. 43–45; "Communist Manifesto," pp. 245–271; "Capital," 472–480.

July 14

Second Term Test

The Assault on Liberty

July 19, 21

Reading: Mill's *On Liberty*

The Assault on Greatness

July 26, 28, August 04

Reading: Nietzsche's *Beyond Good and Evil; Genealogy of Morals*

August 09

Make-up Tests

August 11

Term Papers Due